

**THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BENSON, ARIZONA
HELD JULY 14, 2014, AT 7:00 P.M.
AT CITY HALL, 120 W. 6TH STREET, BENSON, ARIZONA**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor King called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of the Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present were: Mayor Toney D. King, Sr., Vice Mayor Al Sacco, Councilmembers Pat Boyle, Ron Brooks, Jeff Cook and Chris Moncada. Absent was: Councilmember Peter Wangsness

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: None

PROCLAMATION: None

PUBLIC HEARING: None

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Luis Garcia, the City's Building Official, addressed Council stating as they may have heard, he accepted another job out of state, adding Benson is his home and he really enjoyed the opportunity to serve this fine community. Mr. Garcia then stated his tenure, while not all that long, was filled with great memories, experiences and some challenges. Mr. Garcia then stated the City staff is first class, adding every single one of them is the most talented, passionate and dedicated public servants to serve this fine community that Benson could ever ask for. Mr. Garcia then stated he has learned and grown professionally from all of whom he has had the pleasure of working with during his tenure. Mr. Garcia then stated the current economy has affected the entire country and in Benson, he hears statements of overstaffing, that the salaries at the top are too high and that the employees just need to double up. Mr. Garcia then stated Benson is unique in the amount of services the City provides this great community and that none of the statements he has heard are substantiated with any facts. Mr. Garcia then stated with relatively little effort, one could find other similarly situated cities and their pay structures and the result they would find is that the most talented staff available with salaries well within the averages and sometimes lower than the averages are right here in Benson. Mr. Garcia then stated he also hears the goal is to create jobs in Benson, so the youths of today can stay and become the leaders of Benson's future. Mr. Garcia then stated he hopes that Benson can bring that vision back on track in the future and actually support that goal and not destroy it. Mr. Garcia then stated fighting and stagnant progress should not define Benson, adding Benson is a strong tight-knit community and should stay focused on making Benson the best possible place it could be for generations to come. Mr. Garcia then asked the people of Benson to please not listen to the negative few, adding some may call Benson derogatory names, but he just calls it "home." Mr. Garcia then stated he would like to say thank you again and that Benson will always be his heart. Mr. Garcia received a standing ovation from most present.

Stephen Insalaco addressed the Council regarding New Business Items 5, 6 and 7. Mr. Insalaco's comments will be retained with the Council packet.

Jim Grey addressed Council stating on the Call to the Public request to speak he put that he was both a resident and non-resident, adding his house is outside the City limits, but he has been at his business inside the City limits for 18 years and he spends more time there than at his home, so he feels he is a resident of Benson, whether he lives in the City limits or not. Mr. Grey then stated he came to speak on New Business Item 5, adding he worked hard on getting the first billboards established. Mr. Grey stated he believed \$17,000 was budgeted for the billboards and that there should be funding left over, which should be used for new signs. Mr. Grey then stated 15 years ago, the Voyager RV Park in Tucson was voted the best park in America, adding they have continued to say they were voted the best park in America in all of their advertising for the

past 15 years. Mr. Grey then stated thousands and thousands of people travel Interstate 10 to and from the Phoenix area, the Tucson area and several areas in Texas and the number 1 reasons families relocate are schools. Mr. Grey then stated if the City advertises that we have the number 1 schools in Arizona, people traveling through here will see that and stop and think about it, adding they might consider moving here, bringing their families, starting new businesses, buying homes and adding to the economy. Mr. Grey then stated it was a must to promote Benson and he thinks the billboard signs have already helped somewhat, although it was hard to gauge, but at the same time, the words are getting out there, with 12 million vehicles going by them every year. Mr. Grey then stated he hoped the Council supported the signs because they will help everyone in Benson.

Paul Lotsf addressed Council regarding the City’s advertising, stating he believes the City spends more money on advertising per year than any business in the community. Mr. Lotsf then stated the Consent Agenda contains an agreement between City of Benson and Wick newspapers, but that the amount charged per column inch was not completed. Mr. Lotsf then stated in his opinion, the local newspaper has become less of a bargain than it ever was, adding the problem is that a lot of people get their news off the internet and unless the City wants to pay a lot extra, it is not going to get much coverage from the print edition. Mr. Lotsf then stated when the price per column inch for circulation copies is compared with much bigger papers, it is easy to see that their rates are pretty outrageous and he would only use the local paper when the law requires it. Mr. Lotsf then stated he also saw a contract for IT services with a company in Utah for approximately \$69,000, adding when Mr. Riker was here about 6 months ago, a point was made that the City computers were ancient and needed to be replaced, which is one of the main reasons Mr. Riker’s services were so needed. Mr. Lotsf then stated he thought for a lot less than \$69,000, the City could buy all new computers for everyone. Mr. Lotsf then stated he had a strong suspicion the reason the City got the bids it got is because of poor advertising. Mr. Lotsf then stated the City could probably do a much better job of finding a computer technician probably a lot closer if proper advertising was done, adding there are probably some people who are very interested in this job, but they didn’t even know it existed. Mr. Lotsf then stated one of the things he has used in the past is the University of Arizona’s newspaper, the Wildcat, adding the rates are ridiculously cheap and thousands and thousands of technically-minded people read it. Mr. Lotsf then stated it might be something the Council would like to consider, adding he would turn down the proposed IT contract until they did some more effective advertising. Mr. Lotsf then stated he would like to take exception to the two people who commented about the signs on the Interstate to promote the school, adding he thinks it is idiotic. Mr. Lotsf then stated he could just imagine some long-haul trucker driving from Los Angeles to Texas seeing the sign and stopping to enroll his kids in Benson, adding that is not going to happen. Mr. Lotsf then stated the Council could promote the school if they wanted, but they would be much better off giving the money to the Economic Development Committee. Mr. Lotsf then stated the school should definitely use being declared the number 1 school in the state as a selling point for getting people to consider relocating here, particularly companies, but to just advertise it on the Interstate doesn’t make any sense at all.

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

City Manager William Stephens addressed Council, giving the dates of upcoming meetings and events.

- Thursday, July 17, 2014 – Planning & Zoning Worksession, 7:00 p.m., City Hall
- Saturday, July 19, 2014 – Historic Preservation Commission, 9:00 a.m., City Hall
- Monday, July 21, 2014 – Benson Economic Development Committee, 6:00 p.m., City Hall
- Tuesday, July 22, 2014 – Community Watershed Alliance, 6:30 p.m., City Hall
- Saturday, July 26, 2014 – Airport Advisory Committee, 8:00 a.m., Benson Airport, Hangar B9
- Monday, July 28, 2014 – City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall

- Thursday, July 17, 2014 – “Meet the Candidates Forum” – The Benson/San Pedro Valley Chamber of Commerce & Arizona’s G&T Cooperatives will host a City Council candidate forum, 7:00 p.m., Lions Club
- Wednesday, July 23, 2014 – The City Pool will close for the year.
- Thursday, July 24, 2014 – School starts at Benson Unified School District.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion and Possible Action on the Consent Agenda

- 1a. Minutes of the May 21, 2014 Worksession
- 1b. Advertising Agreement between the City of Benson and Vail Sun/San Pedro Valley News-Sun
- 1c. Invoices processed for the period from June 13, 2014 through June 30, 2014

Vice Mayor Sacco moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilmember Brooks. Motion passed 6-0.

2. Discussion and possible action regarding authorization of funds from the Community Enrichment Fund and direction to Staff to promote a Tree Lighting Ceremony and Light Parade in conjunction with the San Pedro Valley Arts and Historical Society

City Manager William Stephens stated the City of Benson Recreation Department, in conjunction with the San Pedro Valley Arts and Historical Society, is planning a Tree Lighting Ceremony and Light Parade. Mr. Stephens stated it is extremely challenging to find a decent living tree and the Recreation Department spent many hours looking for a tree and ended up purchasing it in the Phoenix area, however, due to the high delivery fee, it was necessary for Staff to return to Phoenix to pick up the tree. Mr. Stephens then stated the tree was then planted at the Museum in late fall of 2013 to avoid additional tree expenses year after year. Mr. Stephens then stated the Tree Lighting Ceremony will be on Tuesday, November 25, 2014 and the Light Parade will be on Saturday, December 13, 2014, adding the approximate cost for these holiday activities is \$2,500.00 as budgeted for the 2014/2015 Fiscal Year. Mr. Stephens then stated Recreation Coordinator Laura Parkin was available to answer any questions.

Councilmember Moncada stated these are great events, adding they have been put on the last 2 years and have grown each year. Councilmember Moncada stated it is great to see the kids meet Santa and last year, a bluegrass band also performed, adding both events are worthwhile events. Mayor King agreed, stating he was in the first light parade and it was the most amazing thing he had done in a long time. Mayor King then stated he thought it was important to continue these events for the community. Councilmember Moncada then stated with the passing of Mr. Dwain Hinskey (aka Santa), it wouldn't be quite the same, adding Mr. Hinskey will be missed, but added they are both good events for the community.

Councilmember Brooks asked about the budget for the events, what the fee was per entry, why decorations needed to be purchased again and about advertising with Ms. Parkin stating the entry fee was \$5.00 per entry, some decorations can be reused, but the decorations she would purchase would replace damaged decorations from previous years, as well as needing additional decorations each year as the tree grows and that the advertising would predominantly be local since the event is for local residents.

Councilmember Moncada then moved to approve the authorization of funds from the Community Enrichment Fund and the direction to Staff to promote a Tree Lighting Ceremony and Light Parade in conjunction with the San Pedro Valley Arts and Historical Society. Seconded by Mayor King. Motion passed 6-0.

3. Discussion and possible action regarding the Benson Butterfield Rodeo Committee's request for assistance by providing and assisting with set up of serpentine fencing, providing equipment and personnel to assist with the chalking of the parking lot at the Arena, giving access to water for prep and dust control and becoming a Sponsor for the Benson Butterfield Rodeo

City Manager William Stephens stated last year, the Council voted to sponsor the Benson Butterfield Rodeo with a donation allowing the event to expand to 2 days. Mr. Stephens stated the rodeo committee would like to continue the 2-day event, with assistance from the City, adding funding for this celebration would come from Community Enrichment, in its own line item, which was budgeted at \$4,650.00.

Heather Floyd of the Benson Butterfield Rodeo Committee came forward to answer any questions the Council may have. Mayor King stated the rodeo committee had expanded the event for the last couple of years and it has grown into a huge event for the City. Ms. Floyd then stated this will be the rodeo's 14th year, and if the Council approves the request, it will be the 3rd year that the event will be a 2-day event. Ms. Floyd then stated the rodeo brings in about 450 contestants from outside of our area and about 1,100 attendees, who stay the entire weekend, adding positive impacts are increased bed tax, and fuel and food sales. Ms. Floyd then stated the rodeo is the second largest event the Arena hosts, adding the only larger event is the Biker Rodeo.

Councilmember Moncada stated he could definitely see the difference in town when the rodeo is happening, adding restaurants are full, traffic increases and there are a lot of people attending it. Councilmember Brooks stated the City has two main events, this and 4th of July and the City needs to capitalize on them. Councilmember Brooks then stated the rodeo used to be a 2-day event, then it went back to 1 day and it lost a lot of people. Councilmember Brooks then stated he would like to see the event expand even further, adding it ties in well with Benson and he would want to see what more could be done. Ms. Floyd stated last year the committee added a Rodeo Queen pageant, which was hosted on Friday and every year, they are adding more, little by little. Councilmember Brooks then stated he talked to the Vigilantes and they were willing to come to Benson, adding he thinks the event could add some kind of a shootout and maybe a stagecoach robbery and the event could really get the City packed with people. Councilmember Brooks then stated he thinks the City is getting the value of the money the Council is donating back in sales tax revenues, adding he was all for it.

Councilmember Boyle asked Ms. Floyd if the rodeo committee had considered a country western dance on Friday night. Ms. Floyd stated the Arena hosts a dance on Saturday and sometimes hosts a dance on Friday, adding a lot of times High School reunions meet there on Friday as well. Councilmember Boyle stated they could possibly have a mariachi band or Spanish dancers with Ms. Floyd stating she would leave Friday night up to the Arena since they are the ones who pay for it. Councilmember Brooks then stated a lot could be done with this, but it was definitely a start.

Councilmember Cook stated he had spoken to Finance Director Megan Moreno about City sales tax collections for the month of October both when the biker rodeo was here and when it wasn't, adding when the biker rodeo came back in 2013, after being gone in 2012, there was a \$50,000 increase in City sales tax. Councilmember Cook then stated these events definitely impact the City, are a great thing for Benson and is money well spent. Mayor King agreed.

Councilmember Brooks moved to approve the Benson Butterfield Rodeo Committee's request for assistance by providing and assisting with set up of serpentine fencing, providing equipment and personnel to assist with the chalking of the parking lot at the Arena, giving access to water for prep and dust control and becoming a Sponsor for the Benson Butterfield Rodeo with a contribution of \$4,650. Seconded by Vice Mayor Sacco. Motion passed 6-0.

4. **Discussion and possible action regarding Resolution 19-2014 of the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson, Arizona, entering into a contract with Executech Utah, Inc. for Information Technology Services**

Mayor King opened the item for discussion. Councilmember Moncada stated he was glad the City would finally have contracted IT services instead of operating on an as-needed basis. Mayor King then asked why there were no responses from local companies with Finance Director Megan Moreno stating there were only 2 responses, adding one company was based out of Tucson and has technicians in Benson, but they were more expensive. Ms. Moreno then stated based on evaluation of the review committee, they felt it was more advantageous to go with Executech. Ms. Moreno then stated Executech is technically out of Utah, but also has an office in Phoenix and part of the agreement is that they will hire a local technician within 120 days to provide a local presence. Mayor King asked if the City would be charged for the travel from Phoenix to Benson with Ms. Moreno stating the City would mostly be serviced by the local technician they hire after the contract goes into effect, but travel and other emergencies are inclusive in the contract and there would be no extra charges for those. Councilmember Brooks asked who was on the proposal review committee with Ms. Moreno stating it was her, Public Works Director Brad Hamilton, Chief of Police Paul Moncada and City

Manager William Stephens, adding the Police Department and Finance are heavy users of the system, along with Public Works and of course, the City Manager.

Councilmember Brooks then stated Executech was the company that did the original investigation for the City with Ms. Moreno stating they were. Ms. Moreno then stated she had become familiar with this company through a Caselle conference, adding Caselle is the accounting software the City uses. Ms. Moreno then stated Executech is the preferred IT provider by Caselle, and at that conference, Executech was offering a free analysis of computer systems, so they volunteered to come down and do the analysis for free. Ms. Moreno then stated they were familiar with the City's systems before putting in for the proposal, so it may be why they were able to offer a competitive price.

Councilmember Brooks asked why only 2 proposals were submitted, adding it seems like there are a lot of technicians in Tucson and Arizona and the City should have received more. Ms. Moreno then stated over 25 people requested the Request for Proposals (RFP) but only 2 responded with proposals. Vice Mayor Sacco then stated the other proposal was from Prologic and was for \$7,100 per month.

Councilmember Cook stated he had reviewed the contract and didn't see a section that stipulates when the contract would start and the payment would commence or address the hiring of a local technician within 120 days. Ms. Moreno stated Executech's submitted proposal includes hiring someone local within 120 days, adding the contract says Executech will adhere to their submitted proposal. Ms. Moreno then stated the contract will be effective July 16 and the City will probably pro-rate the first payment to reflect that date. Ms. Moreno then stated Executech wanted to schedule a meeting with City Staff on July 17 to perform a full analysis again, but due to scheduling issues, the meeting would be scheduled the following week.

Councilmember Brooks asked who Executech was going to hire with Ms. Moreno stating it would be up to them, but added there is a process and stipulation in the contract that the technician will have to be approved by the City, because they will have access to confidential and sensitive information and we want to make sure a background check is performed before they are allowed access to the City's system.

Councilmember Brooks asked again why over 25 people who request the RFP and then not submit a proposal and only 2 would. Councilmember Moncada stated they probably read the paper and saw what happened to RikerTek, the last contracted IT service provider. Councilmember Moncada then stated he understood why there were only 2, adding he wouldn't submit a proposal either and he was kind of surprised the City did receive 2. Councilmember Cook stated Councilmember Brooks would have to ask the 23 people who didn't submit proposals and their reasons probably varied.

Councilmember Moncada moved to approve Resolution 19-2014. Seconded by Councilmember Boyle. Motion passed 5-1 with Councilmember Brooks voting nay.

5. **Discussion and possible action and/or direction to Staff about obtaining the right to design and/or utilize one or more new billboards promoting the City of Benson, with the current desired promotion being that the City of Benson has the school district ranked #1 in 2013 by the Arizona Department of Education for academics**

Mayor King asked if the expense for another billboard was in the budget with City Manager William Stephens stating it was, adding the Council had already discussed this and he gave direction to Tourism Director Bob Nilson to begin looking an available billboard to substitute for one of the current billboards the City has. Mr. Stephens then stated the other issue the Council previously discussed was lighting the two billboards that are already up, adding to light them from 6 p.m. to midnight will cost \$75 per month and lighting them all night long will be \$100 per month.

Councilmember Brooks stated he did check the budget and increased the billboard line item by \$8,000, therefore, the Council did budget for an additional billboard. Councilmember Moncada stated the Council did increase the budget line item, but only because the contracts for the existing billboards may not allow the Council to cancel a billboard at the same time a better location became available. Councilmember Moncada

then stated the Council knew they may have to pay for 3 billboards until the contract for the 2 existing billboards was up for renewal and the Council could cancel 1 of them and end up with 2 billboards. Councilmember Moncada then stated the Council would have to be committed to spending \$20,000 for the next few years in order to have 3 billboards. Councilmember Brooks stated he agreed with Mr. Grey, adding he did look at the statistics and sales have gone up tremendously since the billboards went up, however, there was no way to track it. Councilmember Brooks then stated advertising is big and anyone in business knows advertising is important, adding if the Council wants to see sales, they have got to bring people here. Councilmember Brooks then stated he thought the billboards shouldn't necessarily just say that Benson has the #1 school and that's it, but that there should be some other things on it since we still need to target travelers for restaurants and motels. Councilmember Brooks then stated he thought the Council should modify the existing billboards to add the #1 school in Arizona, adding he would like to be involved in how they are going to formulate the billboards. Councilmember Brooks then stated he think the billboards are definitely worth every penny, which is why he put it on the agenda. Councilmember Moncada agreed adding the #1 school in Arizona was a good idea, but he didn't want the school to be the only thing on the billboard.

Councilmember Brooks then stated the Council should move the existing billboards because the current locations are not as effective as they could be if they were on the south side of the freeway coming out of the Tucson area, adding hopefully that is what Mr. Nilson is working on.

Councilmember Cook then stated if the Council has 2 billboards, which cost 2/3 of the budgeted amount, then spending the remaining 1/3 of the funding would probably result in the same value. Councilmember Cook then stated the billboard he has seen near the San Pedro River is in a pretty obscure place, adding it's on the right as travelers are heading west and it can't be seen until you get beyond some trees and even then, you have to be looking for it. Councilmember Cook then stated he doesn't know where the second existing billboard is, but he understands it is a little obscured also. Councilmember Cook then stated his concern is that if the Council is going to spend an equal amount on a third billboard, they are going to get pretty much an equal amount of value back. Councilmember Cook then stated he thought the Council should be looking for the end of the contract for the current billboards and then find a bigger, better billboard in a less obscured, more visible place.

Mr. Stephens stated he had given direction to Mr. Nilson to look at better locations as they become available in addition to lighting the current billboards. Mr. Stephens then stated the Council had previously discussed approving a new billboard in a better location and then not renewing one of the existing billboards, but having either 2 or 3 was up to the Council.

Councilmember Boyle asked about funding and if there was enough budgeted to have 3 billboards with lighting with Mr. Stephens stating he would have to look into the cost of the third billboard once a location became available. Finance Director Megan Moreno then stated the funding for the billboards is in the Community Enrichment budget, adding the City currently pays \$400 a month for each billboard and to light them would be an additional cost totaling \$12,000. Mr. Moreno then stated the budget did contain a little more for a third billboard, but the original thought was to get a new billboard when it became available and then not renew one of the existing billboards in February, when that contract expires.

Mayor King asked if the billboard by the Benson Ice Cream Shoppe had been considered with Councilmember Moncada stating that billboard is on the main street and people would already be in Benson. Councilmember Brooks asked if Mayor King was suggesting a smaller sign advertising the school with Mayor King stating he was asking if the billboard by the Ice Cream Shoppe had been considered, adding there are a lot of people going through Benson anyway and they can't miss that sign.

Mr. Stephens stated that billboard had not been considered before, then added the City can only afford what the budget will allow. Mr. Stephens then stated the original concept was to have 2 billboards; one for travelers heading eastbound on Interstate 10 and one for travelers heading westbound on Interstate 10 and to budget for a third so the City would be in a position to take the opportunity when a better location became available, adding the third billboard was to replace one of the current billboards when the contract on those expired. Mr.

Stephens then stated a smaller billboard in town could be considered, depending on what the budget could sustain, but it would be up to the Council. Mayor King stated he was just giving food for thought.

Councilmember Boyle then stated on the far side of Tombstone, coming in from Sierra Vista, there are 4 or 5 little signs the City put up advertising different things in town. Councilmember Boyle then stated maybe it could be done in Benson, showing what we have, such as “10 restaurants” and other things.

Councilmember Cook then stated he was a little on both sides as well as having his own view. Councilmember Cook then stated he was not opposed to looking for a billboard, but the Council needs to have a clear idea of how effective or obscure it might be. Councilmember Cook then stated his other view was that rather than the advertising the billboards have on them now, he thinks the Council should do seasonal advertising and advertise the 4th of July, Butterfield Stage Days and the Biker Rodeo, then in the other months, advertise schools and the other information. Councilmember Cook stated he thought that might bring more people to Benson instead of just listing what is here. Mr. Stephens stated he could look into that to see what options are possible and what the cost would be.

Councilmember Brooks then moved to approve New Business Item #5 and to approve then expenditure for an additional sign. Seconded by Vice Mayor Sacco.

City Attorney Gary Cohen stated the motion needed to be consistent with the item on the agenda, adding an expenditure to do so isn't on the agenda.

Councilmember Brooks then stated again, he moved to approve agenda item #5. Mr. Cohen stated the agenda item has several possibilities and he wasn't sure what Councilmember Brooks was choosing to do. Mr. Cohen then stated he thought Councilmember Brooks was directing Staff to continue to pursue options and then report back to the Council when and if they had something concrete, but stated he didn't want to assume anything.

Councilmember Brooks then stated what he was doing was authorizing the City Manager to use an expenditure to achieve the additional sign the City needs and if the City Manager sees fit to remove one of the other signs, the City will have 2 signs, with 1 in a new location. Councilmember Brooks then stated that is how the agenda item is written up. Councilmember Cook stated he sees the item being written that the City of Benson has the school district ranked #1 in 2013 and to have that as the current design promotion. Councilmember Cook then stated that was not the direction the Council discussion went, adding the Council may need to turn down this agenda item and bring it back at the next meeting with it being written up more in line with what they discussed.

Councilmember Brooks then stated he would amend his motion, and then moved to approve agenda item #5, listing Benson City as having the #1 district in education and academics, plus additional advertising with a mixture of motels and restaurants. There was some brief discussion with Mayor King stating that was not on the agenda and Councilmember Brooks stating the item was additional advertising and that an amendment to a motion is to change the initial directive on an agenda item.

Councilmember Boyle then asked about reformatting the signs to include the #1 school district along with other attractions in the City. Councilmember Brooks stated he would go for that. Mayor King then asked Councilmember Brooks to repeat his motion. Councilmember Brooks stated he moved to approve item #5 with the amendment of not only Benson having the #1 school district in the State of Arizona, but also having other promotional items for the City on that billboard. Seconded by Vice Mayor Sacco.

Councilmember Cook then said he would like the motion restated with City Clerk Vicki Vivian stating the motion was to approve item #5 with the amendment of not only Benson having the #1 school district in the State of Arizona, but also having other promotional items for the City on that billboard. Mayor King then called for a vote. Motion passed 6-0. Councilmember Moncada then stated when Mr. Stephens finds an available billboard, he needed to bring it back to Council for their consideration.

6. **Discussion and possible action and/or direction to Staff regarding working with ADOT to determine all terms and conditions under which the City might be able to acquire or create one or more State Highway signs, preferably placed at or near the 303 eastbound exit on Interstate 10 and/or the 306 westbound exit on Interstate 10**

City Manager William Stephens stated this item is on the agenda at the request of Vice Mayor Sacco and Councilmember Brooks. Councilmember Brooks stated there is a sign that indicates Benson is the next 4 exits, but he had a number of constituents ask why there are no signs that show what the specific exits for Benson are, adding if someone gets off at the wrong exit, they may decide to keep going and not stop in Benson. Councilmember Brooks then stated he would like to direct the City Manager to speak with ADOT to see if signs can be placed at exit 303 and exit 306 to indicate they are the exits for Benson.

Councilmember Boyle asked if Councilmember Brooks was looking for a business district sign with Councilmember Brooks stating he was not, adding there are signs that indicate the exits for Bisbee and Tombstone, but don't list Benson on the same exits and they should. Councilmember Brooks then stated he thinks Mr. Stephens and ADOT may know what he is looking for, adding he just wants it clear what exits to take to get to Benson.

City Manager William Stephens stated he would be glad to have that discussion with ADOT and Staff to see if we can't improve signage that is currently on Interstate 10 to highlight Benson more than the current sign does.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A)(3) & (7), for discussions or consultations with the City's attorneys for legal advice, and/or with designated representatives of the public body in order to consider its position and instruct its representatives regarding negotiations for the purchase, sale or lease of all or part of the San Pedro Municipal Golf Course.

Councilmember Brooks stated Mr. Jay Tomerlin, the former Director of Golf Operations was very important with the information and knowledge of the Golf Course and asked if he could be included in the executive session. Mayor King stated he didn't think Mr. Tomerlin could come into the executive session with Councilmember Brooks stating he would like to hear from the City Attorney regarding the matter. City Attorney Gary Cohen stated the agenda notice only includes two provisions that only allow for representatives of the public body, or the attorney, adding Mr. Tomerlin is no longer a City representative since he resigned his position. Councilmember Brooks then asked if he could word the item differently in the future, then stating he would talk to Mr. Cohen about it at some other time.

Councilmember Brooks then moved to enter into an executive session with the Mayor and Council, the City Manager, the City Attorney and the City Clerk at 7:58 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Moncada. Motion passed 6-0.

Council reconvened at 8:23 p.m. Mayor King stated Staff was given direction in the executive session and asked if there was a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Moncada moved to adjourn at 8:24 p.m. Seconded by Vice Mayor Sacco.

Councilmember Brooks stated he did want to hear from Mr. Tomerlin and what he thought about possibly selling the Golf Course under the next New Business Item. Councilmember Brooks then asked if the Council was going to address the New Business Item #7 with City Attorney Gary Cohen stating it was up to the Mayor on whether he wanted to allow a member of the public to address the Council regarding the next item of business on the agenda. Mayor King then stated Staff has been given direction and the Council was not going to address the next item. Councilmember Cook asked why with Councilmember Moncada stating Staff has been given direction. Mayor King agreed that the Staff had been given direction and then called for a vote on the motion to adjourn. Motion then passed 6-0.

7. **Discussion and possible direction to Staff regarding the possible sale of the San Pedro Municipal Golf Course and/or Restaurant**

Council adjourned after the Executive Session. See above.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: No comments from Council.

ADJOURNMENT:

Council adjourned after the Executive Session. See above.

ATTEST:

Toney D. King, Sr., Mayor

Vicki L. Vivian, CMC, City Clerk